

Race Vehicle Driver Instructions

- 1. What Pace Cars Do**
- a. The purpose of the pace car is to provide visual and audible cues to racers, spectators, marshals, and other roadway users of the race progression, warning them that your race group is quickly approaching.
 - b. The pace car always is in front of the lead racer in its group, and always remains on the pre-determined course.**
 - c. Except for the brief neutral start area, the pace car should never impede the progress of the racers in its group.
 - d. The pace care maintains radio contact with the wheel van behind whenever possible to take direction from the official.

- 2. What Wheel Vans Do**
- a. Wheel vans carry the race official and the spare wheels provided by riders, pre-race.
 - b. The race official directs the wheel van driver throughout the race.
 - c. Wheel vans only service riders in their designated race. There are neutral support vehicles that will service riders who fall behind their wheel vans. When stopped, vans must be pulled all as far off the road on the right shoulder as possible - it is likely you will be overtaken by riders or other vehicles.
 - d. Wheel vans are "neutral" if 8 of the racers in the group have provided wheels - any rider who needs a wheel can get a wheel whether or not they put a wheel in. If fewer than 8 of the riders provide wheels, then "wheels in - wheels out" - wheels will be given only to riders with wheels in the van.

- 3. Pace Car Proper Vehicle/Racer Separation**
- a. After you've turned left onto Flint Mine, the race now officially begins.
 - b. You should now maintain the same speed as the lead racers directly behind you, but at a fixed standoff distance. You should maintain minimum separation of approximately 200 feet (10 car lengths) in front of the lead racer on uphill sections, 300 feet on flat sections, and 500 feet on downhill sections.
 - c. Check your mirrors often.**
 - d. Don't drive so fast that you lose sight of your race leaders, unless you are on a twisting downhill or approaching an intersection.
 - e. Use your mirrors and your copilot to continually monitor the proper separation distance. Sometimes the racers will "attack" each other and their speed may change dramatically - be prepared for this. For instance, the lead group may be going 20 mph, and suddenly one rider attacks at 35 mph. That rider will try to close rapidly on your vehicle to capture a "draft" - this is a dangerous situation that you must avoid by matching his/her acceleration as you observe the attack. If your wheel vehicle is in sight, the race official in that vehicle may radio specific instructions to you regarding your vehicle separation - be sure to obey his/her direction.
 - f. Since your radios only have a range of approximately one mile, they may not be useful for much of the race. Use cell phones if necessary to communicate with other pace and

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wheel drivers. A contact list will be provided.

4. Pace Cars - Oncoming Cars a. Your pace vehicle can provide visual cues to oncoming cars that they are approaching a race group. Your headlights, flashers, and beacon are already on. If the oncoming vehicle does not slow as it approaches, flash your high beams momentarily and wave your hand out the window in a downward direction (to gesture "slow down").

b. DO NOT drift into the opposing lane or use any offensive language or gestures. Your horn will probably not help in this situation, and sometimes it could provoke the oncoming driver.

c. If you are on a narrow road and your wheel vehicle is in sight behind you, radio **"Car Up"**. No need to identify your race field – they will understand your message and convey it to the racers

5. Pace Cars - Approaching Intersections a. You or your copilot (if you have one) should be monitoring your location on the race map. When you are approaching an intersection, radio ahead to the upcoming corner marshals, for example **"45+ approaching Post 18"**.

b. Also, if you have been able to track the progress of different groups of racers in your field, radio some brief information like **"45+ is with 3 leaders, large pack about 1 minute behind"**.

c. Keep your radio transmissions brief, and continue trying to contact the marshals until you can actually see them up at the intersection

d. As you approach the intersection, tap your horn and flash your headlights repeatedly until you see acknowledgment from the marshals. If the marshals are in place and have control of opposing traffic, proceed through the intersection without stopping.

6. Pace Cars - Approaching Slower Race Groups a. Most of the pace vehicles will catch a few slower riders from other groups during the course of the race. As you approach these groups, open the separation distance (to your own leaders behind you) **to about 500 feet.**

b. Tap your horn to warn the riders you are overtaking until you see acknowledgment. Pass them on their left side only - do not pass them from the right, since this could force them into oncoming traffic.

c. You or your copilot should tell them **"You are being passed by another race! Pull to the right edge of the road!"** According to the race rules, they cannot join your group that is overtaking them, and they must yield to your group.

d. As you are doing this, be careful that your lead racers do not come closer than the proper separation distance. If you do not get full acknowledgment from the riders you are overtaking, move on to avoid interfering with your own group. Everything will likely get sorted out.

e. In the event that you observe a wheel vehicle from a slower group up ahead of you, establish immediate radio or cell phone contact. The race official in that vehicle will

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provide instructions on passing the group they are supporting.

f. In the unlikely event that you are caught by a faster pace car from behind, they will contact you by radio or on your cell phone to give you specific instructions.

7. All Vehicles - Hazardous Conditions **a.** Loose animals – use your horn toward the animal off the road. Have your copilot wave to the race leaders behind you to warn of the obstruction. If pet owner is in sight, tell them (briefly) that the pet is in danger of being run over. Keep proper separation distance from your race leaders.

b. Irate motorists – Take note of the license plate, driver and vehicle description. Do not provoke the situation. If the motorist appears likely to cause further problems, **call 911** and report the specifics. Use your radio to warn your wheel vehicle and marshals in close proximity.

c. Racers crash behind you – radio back to the wheel vehicle immediately. Look to see if the racers get up, but continue to stay in front of the leaders - the wheel vehicle will provide assistance to the injured riders. While most crashes look worse than they really are, if you cannot contact your wheel vehicle and if it does not appear that the injured riders are getting up, **call 911**. If it looks very serious, drop off your copilot with cell phone, but keep the radio with you and continue to lead your group. The wheel vehicle will bring your copilot in.

d. Racers from another group crash ahead of you – radio back to your wheel vehicle immediately. Drop off your copilot with cell phone to assist if needed, but keep the radio with you and continue to lead your race. **Drop your passenger off quickly - DO NOT STOP LONG.** Your copilot's first priority should be to remove any bikes from the roadway to make room for your pack to come through, then to attend to the injured. The wheel vehicle will bring your copilot in.

e. Other hazardous conditions – you cannot anticipate every potential situation, so use your best judgment. Remember that your primary job is to provide advanced warning to marshals, motorists, and other riders that your race group is approaching. Use you lights, horn, copilot, and communications as best you can.

8. Pace Cars - Race Finish **a.** When you see the "1K to go" sign, radio in to the finish line. For example **"45+ at 1K, with lead group of 5, main pack about 2 minutes back"**.

b. Increase your separation distance to 500 feet as the racers start accelerating.

c. Just after the "Lap" signs, turn left onto an access road

d. Keep moving through the finish – do not stop until you are well past the finish line. The racers behind you will need plenty of room to slow down.

9. Wheel Cars – Race finish **a.** Complete the course and pull through the finish line without stopping in the lane of traffic as racers will be behind you.

b. Your official may request that you pull off to the right to drop him/her off so that they can report to the finish line officials.

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